

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Aberdeen, WA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

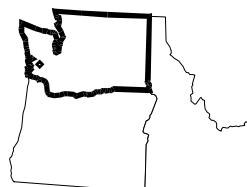
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Aberdeen to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot and additional funding for assessments of brownfields properties to be used for greenspace purposes. The city is located about 50 miles east of Olympia on Grays Harbor, which opens onto the Pacific Ocean. The Greater Aberdeen area, including the pilot area of Junction City, is home to approximately 30,000. Once a hub of thriving fishing and timber industries, the community is now one of the state's most economically distressed areas due to a downturn in business. In recent years, this city has had the fifth lowest median income in the state and unemployment 20 percent above the state average.

The Pilot targets a 625-acre area along the Chehalis River that faces the threat of contamination from years of use as a sawmill, municipal landfill, truck repair yard, and dredged material disposal area. Junction City is virtually surrounded by the targeted area, where previous studies have indicated the presence of hazardous substances in the soil and groundwater that pose a potential threat to the neighborhood and to area fisheries that rely on the Chehalis River. The target area contains prime

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Aberdeen, Washington

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$150,000

Greenspace: \$50,000

Profile: The Pilot targets a 625-acre area along the Chehalis River that is contaminated from years of use as a sawmill, municipal landfill, truck repair yard, and dredged material disposal area.

Contacts:

City of Aberdeen, Office of Planning and Economic Development (360) 537-3226	Regional Brownfields Team U.S. EPA - Region 10 (206) 553-2100
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Visit the EPA Region 10 Brownfields web site at:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/webpage/Brownfields?OpenDocument>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

properties for commercial and industrial development and ecologically valuable wetlands with greenspace potential.

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The city's goal is to encourage reuse of targeted properties that will meet community needs and contribute to revitalization of jobs and economic improvement. Site assessment and community involvement activities conducted under the original Pilot raised concerns about subsurface contamination of the wetlands and identified the need for additional site characterization in the area with redevelopment potential. Supplemental assistance will be used to fill information gaps regarding subsurface contamination, conduct assessments at newly identified sites, expand public education efforts to address technical and scientific issues, and develop remediation and economic improvement plans that are acceptable to the community and businesses interested in locating in the area.

The greenspace funding will be used to involve the community in open space planning, determine whether contaminants are migrating from the landfill into the wetlands along the Chehalis River, and develop options for greenspace development of the wetlands. This will complement existing efforts to explore options for social and educational uses of the valuable wetland area.

The Pilot plans to:

- Expand community outreach efforts to include education on technical and scientific issues;
- Complete environmental site assessment reports by addressing issues related to subsurface contamination and newly identified sites with redevelopment potential;
- Develop cleanup and economic improvement plans that are acceptable to the community and businesses interested in locating in the area; and
- Explore options for greenspace development of the wetlands along the Chehalis River.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.